REMARKS

Amended claims 1 and 3 are directed to a consolidated material of coated powders in the form of a molded, three-dimensional article. Molded, three-dimensional articles formed from the inventive consolidated material of coated powders, such as magnetic heads, cores, capacitors and polarizing filters, are described at pages 19 and 29-30 of the specification.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,763,085 to Atarashi et al. The Examiner considered the powder of Atarashi et al including a metal core having at least one metal oxide film thereon as meeting the terms of the claims when used as a toner.

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The Examiner considered that a toner transferred via a magnetic brush meets the limitation of uniting into a consolidated material while maintaining the same distance in a given direction. However, toners are fixed on a flat surface, where use of a magnetic brush enables the drawing of a two-dimensional "line".

On the other hand, the gist of the present invention is to employ a coated particle having a uniform thickness and to maintain the same distance of the particles in a given direction, to thereby provide the inventive consolidated material of coated powders in the form of a molded, three-dimensional article. The advantageous effect of "maintaining the same distance in a given direction", for example, is such that the molded, three-dimensional article may reflect

electromagnetic waves in a specific direction, or may polarize electromagnetic waves like an optical filter. The present claims have been amended to clearly distinguish over the fixed toner relied upon by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 3 and 5-8 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A consolidated material of coated powders in the form of a molded, three-dimensional article, said coated powders each comprising a base particle having thereon a coating film having a uniform thickness of 0.01 to 20 μm, wherein the coated powders are mutually adhered at the coating film, the base particle comprises a glass, a metal, or a metal oxide, and the coating film is a metal film or a metal oxide film, wherein the coated powders constituting the consolidated material are arranged at the same distance from one another in a given direction and are united into said consolidated material while maintaining the same distance in a given direction.

3. (Three times amended) A consolidated material of coated powders in the form of a molded, three-dimensional article, said coated powders each comprising a base particle having thereon plural coating films having a uniform thickness of 0.01 to 5 μm per film in which at least any adjacent coating films are different in kind, wherein the coated powders are mutually adhered at the outermost coating film, the base particle comprises a glass, a metal, or a metal oxide, and the coating films are each a metal film or a metal oxide film, wherein the coated powders constituting the consolidated material are arranged at the same distance from one another in a given direction and are united into said consolidated material while maintaining the same distance in a given direction.